

JOURNAL
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
IN THE
STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA,

Held in St. James' Church in the Town of Wilmington, on
Thursday, April 22, and continued by adjournments.

A. D. 1819.

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1819.



JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the State of North-Carolina, commencing on Thursday the 22d of April, A. D. 1819.—Held in St. James' Church, in the Town of Wilmington.

THIS being the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention, Morning Prayer was celebrated by the Rev'd. GREGORY T. BEDELL, Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville; and an appropriate and impressive discourse delivered by the Right Rev. RICHARD CHANNING MOORE, D. D. Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocesses of Virginia and North-Carolina.

After the congregation was dismissed, the chair was taken by the Bishop at 12 o'clock, and the following Clergy appeared and took their seats.

Rev'd. ADAM EMPIE, *Rector of St. James' Church, Wilmington.*

JOHN PHILLIPS, *Rector of Trinity Church, Tarboro.*

JOHN AVERY, *Rector of St. Paul's Church, Edenton.*

GREGORY T. BEDELL, *Rector of St. John's Church, Fayetteville.*

RICHARD S. MASON, *Minister of Christ Church, Newbern.*

The following Lay Delegates, then exhibited Certificates of their several appointments, and were accordingly admitted to seats in the Convention:

St. James' Church, Wilmington, { DR. A. J. DE ROSSET,
THOMAS CALLENDER &
THOMAS WRIGHT.

St. John's Church, Fayetteville, { JOHN WINSLOW,
JOHN A. CAMERON.

Christ's Church, Newbern, MOSES JARVIS.

St. Jude's Church, Orange county, ROBERT DAVIS.

JOSIAH COLLINS, Jun. Esq. from St. Paul's Church Edenton, was prevented from attending this Convention by sickness in his family, and DUNCAN CAMERON, Esq. from St. |

Mary's Church, Orange County, by a fall from his horse which injured him severely.

Rev'd. **ADAM EMPIE**, being obliged from indisposition to decline the office of Secretary to this Convention, the Rev'd. **GREGORY TOWNSEND BEDELL** was duly elected.

On motion of **MR. BEDELL**, it was resolved, that Students of Divinity of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who may be in Wilmington during the session of the Convention, and are not members thereof, be admitted to its sittings.

Agreeably to this resolution, **MR. WILLIAM HOOPER**, professor of the languages in the University of North-Carolina, appeared and took his seat. The other students of Divinity are severally Lay Delegates, from different Churches.

It was then moved by **MR. EMPIE**, and carried that the town of Fayetteville, as being the most central position, be fixed upon as the place from which the standing Committee should be elected for the ensuing year.

Whereupon,

Rev'd. ADAM EMPIE,

Rev'd. GREGORY T. BEDELL,

MR. JOHN WINSLOW,

JOHN A. CAMERON,

PARIS I. TILLINGHAST, Sen.

CHARLES MALLET and

NEWMAN KERSHAW, were duly elected.

Application having been made by the Vestry of Trinity Church, Tarborough, to be admitted into union with this convention, said Church, agreeably to the 3d article of the constitution, was admitted.

The Episcopal Congregation in the town of Williamsborough, Granville county, was also regularly admitted into union with this Convention, whereupon **MR. WILLIAM GREEN**, having exhibited his certificate of appointment as Lay Delegate, of the same was admitted to a seat.

The letter of **THOMAS H. BLOUNT**, Esq. to the Rev'd. **JOHN PHILIPS**, on the subject of building a Church in the town of Washington, Beaufort county, was on motion of **MR. EMPIE**, ordered to lie on the Table till to-morrow.

On motion *Resolved*, That the Canons of the General Convention be read—whereupon the Canons were read by the Secretary, assisted by the Rev'd. **RICHARD S. MASON**.

It was then moved by **MR. MASON**, and carried, that a com-

mittee of three, be appointed to draw up a report on the state of the Church—and,

Rev'd. Messrs. EMPIE & AVERY, and JOHN WINSLOW, Esq. were appointed.

A vacancy having occurred in the Delegation to the next General Convention, by the removal of the Rev'd. BETHEL JUDD, from this Diocese—the Rev'd. GREGORY T. BEDELL was elected to supply his place.

Adjourned, till to morrow after morning service.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1819.

After morning prayer had been performed by Rev'd. G. T. BEDELL in the place of Rev'd. JOHN AVERY, indisposed, and a sermon delivered by the Rev'd. RICHARD S. MASON, the convention met pursuant to adjournment:

Clergy and Laity present as yesterday.

The Minutes of the preceding meeting were then read and approved.

The committee on the state of the Church not having completed their business reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

The letter of THOMAS H. BLOUNT, Esq. which was laid on the Table yesterday, was then called up and the following resolution passed:

Resolved, That a letter be addressed to THOMAS H. BLOUNT, Esq. expressive of the wishes of this convention, that he would use his exertions to erect an Episcopal Church, permitting the people to understand, that when the services of an Episcopal clergyman cannot be obtained, the vestry may have it in their power to permit any preacher of sound principles and good moral character to officiate.

On motion of MR. EMPIE, it was *Resolved*, That the Convention authorize the managers of the Missionary Society to draw from the Treasurer of the Convention, such monies as were put into his hands for missionary purposes.

On motion of the same it was *Resolved*, That the Missionary Society be requested to make an annual report of their proceedings.

On motion, the following parochial reports were then presented and read.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, WILMINGTON.

Rev'd. Adam Empic, Rector.

Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	-	33
Marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	10
Funerals,	-	-	-	-	-	16
Communicants,	-	-	-	-	-	151—10 of

whom are Africans. The increase since last Convention being 19.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, NEWBERN,

Rev'd. Richard S. Mason, Minister.

Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	-	9
Marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	4
Funerals,	-	-	-	-	-	8
Communicants,	-	-	-	-	-	32

Owing to particular circumstances, no collection was made for the Missionary Fund in Church—but there was obtained by subscription, \$80.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, EDENTON,

Rev'd. John Avery, Rector.

Baptisms,	-	-	-	-	-	20
Burials,	-	-	-	-	-	3
Communicants,	-	-	-	-	-	11

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, FAYETTEVILLE.

Rev'd. Gregory T. Bedell, Rector.

On the 1st of November 1818, I commenced my duties in St. John's Church :—At that time, I found the number of Communicants as by Mr. JUDD's last report, 28
Since added, - - - - - 28

Total	-	-	56
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Baptisms since above date—adults	-	8
Children,	-	13

Total,	-	-	21
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Marriages,	-	-	-	-	3
Funerals,	-	-	-	-	2
Confirmed April 17, 1819,	-	-	-	-	60

MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS.

Wilmington,	-	-	-	\$ 169	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Newbern,	-	-	-	80	
Edenton,	-	-	-	217	
Fayetteville,	-	-	-	128	30
Blount's Chapel,	-	-	-	26	50
Tarborough,	-	-	-	5	60
Orange County,	-	-	-	200	

Moved by JOHN A. CAMERON, Esq. and carried, that the Convention recommend to the Clergy of this Diocess, the organization of Prayer Book Societies, in their several congregations.

On motion of MR. BEDELL, it was *Resolved*, that this Convention highly approves of the Theological Seminary established by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church and recommends its support to the Clergy and Laity of this Diocess.

On motion of JOHN A. CAMERON, Esq. it was *unanimously Resolved*, that the thanks of this Convention be presented to the Rt. Rev'd. Bishop MOORE, for his evangelical, eloquent, and impressive discourse, delivered at the opening of the Convention, and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication.

Rev'd. MR. AVERY, MOSES JARVIS, Esq. and JOHN WINSLOW, Esq. asked and obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

Adjourned 'till to-morrow morning after service.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1819.

Morning prayer having been read by Rev'd. RICHARD S. MASON, and a discourse delivered by Rev'd. JOHN PHILLIPS, the convention met pursuant to adjournment.

Clergy and Laity present as yesterday, excepting Rev'd. JOHN AVERY, Messrs. JARVIS and WINSLOW.

On motion, reports were then called for, whereupon the following reports were delivered :

The Standing Committee of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocess of North-Carolina, for the ensuing year, beg leave to

REPORT :

That it appears from the minutes of the Committee of last year, that the only business which was transacted by them,

was granting to **MR. GEORGE S. PHILLIPS**, license to officiate as Lay Reader in the town of Tarborough, and furnishing to **MR. HENRY M. SHAW**, one of the Teachers in the Academy at Fayetteville, who had been a candidate in this Diocese for the year last past, the recommendation required by the Canon in order to his obtaining Deacons orders. The Committee would also mention, that pursuant to this recommendation, the Bishop proceeded to his examination and admitted him to the Holy Order of Deacons, on Monday the 19th inst. in St. John's Church, Fayetteville.

The attention of the Committee was then called to the application of **MR. WILLIAM HOOPER**, professor of languages in the University of this state, for admission as a candidate for holy orders, which application being attended with the requisite testimonials, was admitted: and it was further determined, that a licence be granted to **MR. HOOPER** to officiate as Lay Reader in St. Mary's Parish, Orange County, and parts adjacent.

The committee were then further called to the consideration of the application of **MR. ROBERT DAVIS**, who had been a candidate during the last year for a recommendation to the Bishop for Deacon's Orders, and satisfactory testimonials being produced it was resolved that the prescribed recommendation should be given.

The Committee however, while they bear testimony to the piety, good standing, and attachment of **MR. Davis**, to the doctrines, discipline and worship of our church: and while from written discourses of his own composition delivered to them, he exhibits the powers of a more than ordinary mind, still beg leave to remark, that they have suggested to the Bishop, as **MR. Davis** has neither had the opportunity of a classical education, nor of pursuing any regular course of Theological studies, it was in their opinion expedient that he be continued one year longer as a Candidate; and that as the requisite books cannot be furnished him in the country where he resides, he should pursue his studies at Fayetteville, under the direction of the **Re'vd Mr. Bedell**.

The Committee also taking into consideration the pecuniary circumstances of the Candidate, have confidently recommended him to the Missionary Society, and other friends of the church for such facilities as his worth, and the good of the church demands.

The committee were influenced in their decision upon this point, by the consideration that, in any other circumstances than the present condition of the church in this state, they would have urged the immediate ordination of the candidate.

But viewing with unbounded satisfaction the rising prospects of the church, and conscious that this delay will be of advantage, not only to the church, but to Mr. Davis himself, they have ventured to pursue this course, and are happy to report that their views have been met by the Bishop and Mr. Davis with acquiescence and satisfaction.

The committee cannot close their report without congratulating the convention on the present prospects of the church. The visit of our venerable Bishop has been of incalculable importance, and every thing has occurred to call forth our gratitude to the Great Head of the church for His abundant goodness. May he work in us, and with us by his grace, to the promotion of his glory and the edification of his church.

By order of the standing committee,

GREGORY T. BEDELL, Clerk.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH.

The Committee on the State of the Church, thinking it not necessary to enter into a minute detail of particulars, beg leave to submit the following as the general result of their enquiries.

In taking a retrospect of the year past, we have reason for encouragement, and abundant cause of gratitude to the Great Head of the church.

At the last meeting of the Convention, we found the church in this state, which but a short time before was almost extinct, arising from the dust and affording a prospect to her friends exceedingly animating. The cheering hope which was then cherished, has not been disappointed. Her interests have continued to advance with a success equal to every reasonable expectation ; a considerable accession has been made to her numbers. The churches represented in this convention are in a more flourishing state than they were at our last meeting. But of this number, St. John's Church in Fayetteville, affords an encouraging example for the imitation of its sister churches. The liberality and zeal of its members, are worthy of the highest praise. By their spirited and pious exertions, a building commenced in June 1817, has been completed and solemnly consecrated to the worship of Almighty God. But it is not the external state of this church alone, which deserves attention. There has also been a great increase of piety among its members. Mr. Bedell, who commenced his ministry in that place in November last, has by the blessing of God been eminently useful in promoting the

interest of the Church, and the cause of the Redeemer. Since that time the number of communicants has been doubled, and the prospects of the future, are of the most encouraging nature.

Another event of importance, is the establishment of a Church at Tarborough by the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Phillips, who was employed as a Missionary at the last convention. This is a circumstance the more desirable because it furnishes the members of our church in Washington, Greenville and the adjacent country, with occasional opportunities of attending the worship of God in the form which they prefer, and it is to be hoped, will be the means of exciting them to revive the institutions of their Fathers.

In looking forward to the future, there are many circumstances which are well calculated to inspire the hope and quicken the exertions of the friends of Zion. The increase and prosperity of the Church the last year, and the attention to her interest which has been awakened in almost every part of the state, afford ground of much satisfaction. For many years, little has been done, because all seemed to despair of success. The friends of our Church, regarding her state as hopeless, contented themselves with mourning over her ruins without making any efforts to raise her from her desolations. But the happy change which has lately been made, has called into action the zealous endeavors of many of her followers ; and there is good reason to believe, that the zeal and exertions which have already been exhibited, will continue to increase.

Another circumstance highly encouraging, is the prospect of soon being able to send forth from among ourselves, laborers qualified by their knowledge and piety, to cultivate this part of the vineyard of the Lord. Of those who were admitted as candidates at the last convention, one* has already been set apart to the work of the Holy Ministry, and is expected shortly to go forth as a Missionary. There are also two new candidates, Mr. George F. Phillips, son of the Rev. John Phillips and Mr. William Hooper, Professor of Languages in the University of North-Carolina.

Among the prosperous circumstances of our Church, the visit of the Bishop has already been of extraordinary advantage. It is the first time that this state has ever been the subject of Episcopal visitation ; and the venerable appearance of the Bishop, together with the solemnity of his official performances—and the pure and evangelical strain of his discourses

**Mr. Henry M. Shaw.*

has won to our institutions the approbation of all. We have reason of gratitude to him, for his paternal visit, and of abundant thankfulness to God, that he has permitted us to enjoy the benefit.

The committee earnestly exhorting the continuance of zeal in the Clergy, and of co-operation in the Laity, respectfully submit their report.

JOHN AVERY, Chairman
Of Committee on the State of the Church.

REPORT OF THE MANAGERS OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Missionary Society in reporting their proceedings to the convention, feel happy to announce the brightening prospect of the society. The increasing interest which in various parts of the state appears to be taken in its welfare, not only evinces an eagerness for the Gospel in general, but also a sincere attachment to the communion of our truly venerable and apostolic church.

The liberal contributions which have been made to the Society, will enable it to employ Missionaries in those parts of the state in which their services are most required, and it is with a well founded hope, we trust the period is not far distant, when the lamp of our church shall again illumine those regions where it had been extinguished—that again shall the notes of our amiable Liturgy resound in parts where its accents had almost been forgotten.

The Missionary Society was instituted at Newbern in 1817, at the sitting of the Convention in that place. During the first year of its organization, nothing could be done but the obtaining of subscribers and making collections for the use of the Society.

At a meeting of the Society which took place in Fayetteville on the 2d of April 1818, it appeared that from contributions, collections, &c. the Treasurer had on hand \$425 : 30. The Managers of the Society relying on this fund, employed, the Rev'd. John Phillips, who had recently left Virginia to act as a Missionary for the space of six months, in the counties of Beaufort, Halifax, Edgecombe and [redacted], offering him as a compensation for his services, at the rate of \$400 per annum, pledging themselves at the same time for the necessary expenses of an outset.

The Society are fully persuaded that Mr. Phillips has been very assiduous in the discharge of his duties, and they trust his labors have not been without success. He has organized

a congregation at Tarborough by the title of the Wardens and Vestry of Trinity Church, Tarborough, Edgecombe county, which has been received into union with the Convention. Besides performing the duties required of him, he has preached in Fayetteville and Newbern, in which latter place he administered the Holy Communion, in consequence of the officiating Minister being only in Deacon's orders. The parochial report rendered by Mr. Phillips to the Society is as follows :

COMMUNICANTS	Tarborough	10
	Blount's Chapel	3
	Washington	6
	Baptisms	6
	Burials	9

The increased liberality of the friends of the Church, will enable the Society to employ two or more Missionaries, if they can be obtained, for the ensuing year—and have determined to offer at the rate of \$500 per annum. The amount of cash now on hand is nearly \$1,100.

The Society are confident, that it requires only the increased liberality of the friends of our venerable Church to enable them to send forth labourers into their master's vineyard ; and they pray that the God of all grace may dispose the hearts of christians to assist them in this good work—that “the wilderness and the solitary place may blossom as the rose.”

Respectfully reported,

By order of the Society,

RICHARD S. MASON.

On motion, *Resolved*, That 300 Copies of the Journal be printed.

Resolved, That the next Convention be held in the Town of Edenton.

In consequence of the meeting of the General Convention interfering with the meeting of the Convention of this Diocese,

Resolved, That the operation of the 2d Article of the Constitution, be suspended for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That the next Convention be held on Saturday the 29th of April 1820.

The Committee appointed at the last Convention to report such Canons as may be deemed by them expedient—Reported certain Canons, which were passed, and which will be found under their appropriate dates, attached to this Journal.

The business of the Convention being ended, and a Prayer by the Bishop, the Convention adjourned to meet in Edenton, April 29, 1820.

RICHARD CHANNING MOORE, D. D.

*Bishop of the Prot. Epis. Church
in the Dioceses of Virginia and No. Carolina.*

Attest,

GREGORY T. BEDELL,
Sec'y Convention.

CANON I.—PASSED APRIL 3, 1817

Of Presentments.

Every trial of a Clergyman in this Church, for misbehaviour, shall be on presentment, made to the Bishop by the Convention, by the Vestry of the parish to which the Clergyman belongs, or by three or more Presbyters of the church. In every presentment, the charge or charges shall be distinctly specified.

CANON II.—PASSED APRIL 3, 1817.

Of the trial of a Clergyman.

For the trial of a Clergyman, the Bishop shall appoint three Presbyters, who shall be constituted a board for trying the accused person. The Bishop shall fix the time and place of trial ; of both which at least a month's notice shall be given to the party accused ; and should he neglect or refuse to attend, the trial shall proceed. The board, thus constituted, shall examine fully the charges alleged, and keep a minute and accurate record of the testimony of witnesses, and of every question and proceeding that comes before them. No charge shall be substantiated on a testimony of less than two witnesses.—On the examination of any witness, should the accused party require it, an oath or affirmation shall be administered by a magistrate. In all questions, a unanimous vote shall be necessary to a decision. Having come to a decision on the charge or charges respectively, the board shall communicate this decision to the Bishop—and, also, in case they have found the accused guilty, the sentence which, in their opinion, should be pronounced. A certified copy of the record of their proceedings shall be laid before the Bishop, and his judgment in the case shall be final.

CANON III.—PASSED APRIL 3, 1817.

Of the sentence to be pronounced on a Clergyman found guilty of misbehaviour.

This sentence may be admonition, suspension, degradation from the ministry, or excommunication; and shall be pronounced by the Bishop, and communicated to every parish in the state.

CANON IV.—PASSED APRIL 24, 1819.

Respecting the Call of a Special Convention.

When a Special Convention is called, it shall be the duty of the Secretary in issuing the notifications, to specify the business and purposes for which the convention is assembled.

CANON V.—PASSED APRIL 24, 1819.

Concerning Parochial Registers and Reports.

In order to give effect to the 4th Canon of the General Convention in 1808, it is hereby required that each Minister of this Church shall keep a register of all the Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals solemnized by him in the discharge of his Ministry; specifying the names of the parties married, the name and time of the birth of the child baptized, and the names of the parents, and the name of the person buried, and the time when each rite was performed; which register shall be transcribed, at least once in every month, in a book to be kept for that purpose, belonging to the Vestry of each Church. He shall also keep a register of the names of the communicants within his care. And it shall be the duty of each Minister to report annually to the Bishop, at the meeting of the Convention, the amount or sum total of said registers, and also the amount of the register of adults required to be kept by the aforesaid Canon of the General Convention, together with a written account of the state of the parish; which reports shall be by the Bishop communicated to the Convention, and read in their presence, in order to promote a general knowledge of the state of the Church; and shall afterwards be preserved by the Secretary among the records of the Convention.

CANON VI.—PASSED APRIL 24, 1819.

The Clergy required to attend the Meetings of the Convention.

Whereas the regular attendance of the Clergy at the meetings of the Convention is of essential consequence to the interests of the Church, this duty is hereby enjoined on them. At the opening of every Convention the names of the Clergy entitled to seats in the Convention shall be called over, the absentees noted, and at the ensuing Convention, they shall be called upon for the reasons of their absence.



